

**UNDP-Flagship Portfolio on SDG 16
Minutes of the Project Board Meeting
22nd June 2021 – Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Date: 22, June 2021

Venue: via Zoom Conference

Time: 10 am – 12.30 pm

The meeting was co-chaired by UNDP and the External Resources Department

Welcome Address - Ms. Faiza Effendi, Officer in Charge, UNDP

UNDP, Ms. Faiza Effendi welcomed participants, highlighting the following:

- The purpose of the meeting is to inform board members on key results achieved under the Portfolio in 2020, assess 2021 targets, review expenditure for 2020 and 2021 budgets, as well as to inform board members on new initiatives to be launched in 2021.
- Recommendations from the Portfolio's Mid Term Evaluation and Strategic Direction Setting conducted in 2020 resulted in a strategic realignment of the Portfolio's interventions. This allowed UNDP and its national partners to adjust their interventions to better reflect the recent institutional and policy changes and to remain relevant to the needs of the country.
- UNDP remains committed to supporting public and civil society institutions to strengthen SDG 16.
- Acknowledged the support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the European Union and the British High Commission, emphasizing the impact of their funding and support.

Address from - Mr. Ajith Abeysekara, Director General, External Resources Department

Placed on record that the:

- Underlying rationale of the Portfolio was the strengthening of key institutions to be more people centric, responsive and transparent across its three pillars, with a focus on building long term resilience.
- The realignment of the Portfolio's interventions was in alignment with the National Policy Framework: Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor, as well as the Government's policies of transparency and accountability.
- Importance of Government institutions adhering to the treasury issued circular: *Streamlining the Fund Channeling Mechanism and Implementation Modalities of Grant Funded Projects*, to ensure that ERD remains informed of funds received from donors, and that work of line ministries is well coordinated and remains in alignment with Government priorities.
- Thanked UNDP on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka for its critical role in enhancing the development of the country and its efforts in adjusting the Portfolio to align with Government policies.

Presentation of: 1) Portfolio Overview, 2020 Key Results and 2021 Targets 2) Budget Utilization and Resource Overview 3.) New Project Appraisal, 4.) Key Recommendations from the Mid-Term Evaluation and Strategic Direction Setting 5.) Recalibration of SDG-16 Portfolio by Ms. Faiza Effendi, Officer in Charge, UNDP, Ms. Chandrika Karunaratna, Policy Specialist & Team Leader - Governance, Mr. Mohammed Muzain - Portfolio Coordinator.

The attached presentation (Annex 1) captures the key points brought to the Board's attention.

Comments and Discussion

The following key action points and clarifications were discussed and agreed upon:

- The importance of linking resource mobilization to the achievement of performance targets, through continued results-based reporting.
- UNDP will highlight donor codes associated with the respective donors in UNDP's CDR's (Combined Delivery Report) shared with ERD as part of UNDP's accountability framework.
- UNDP's national partners to record their grant funding in the national accounts in a timely manner, as requested by ERD.
- For the pipeline Justice Sector Project reporting on a monthly basis has been agreed upon, according to UNDG categories which is unique to this initiative and UNDP will provide the information required linking resource expenditure to the emerging results.
- A revised outline and restructuring of the EU-funded Access to Justice programme,, with input by the Ministry of Justice has been submitted to ERD for review (including the addendum to the financing agreement and the formulation of a reporting clause with the approval of the Ministry of Finance which will be inserted into the contribution agreement). ERD will review with feedback, and support in the successful and timely implementation of the Justice Sector project together with the Ministry of Justice.
- Clarification that while UNDP contributes to the UNSDCF (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework), which takes on board the Government's SDG commitments outlined in the National Policy Framework, it remains a separate exercise to the recalibration of the SDG 16 Portfolio.

Please see:

Annex 1- PowerPoint Presentation

Annex 2- List of Participants